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02/15/2011 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
FEBRUARY 15, 2011 MEETING Minutes
 Approved, March 2011

SPY POND COMMITTEE
 Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, Bill Eykamp, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Bob & Harriet Noyes, Steve Ricci, David White, guest Margaret Moore (Arlington-Belmont Crew).

Facilitator: Steve Ricci **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, March 15 (*note new date*), April 5, May 3, June 7, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6. Town Hall Annex, first floor.

- Consideration of the January **minutes** was postponed to the March meeting.

Warrant Articles:

- Two articles for waterbodies funding have been submitted: by Spy Pond for \$15,000 and by the Con Com for \$20,000 to control water chestnuts in the Res. The two articles should be combined if possible under Town Meeting rules and the total request should be for \$25,000. The Fin Com hearing on both requests will be on February 23.
- Two articles on boating: No wake from motorboats allowed within 50 ft. of any shore of Spy Pond; Signs listing all rules (including no-wake if passed) and courtesy expectations to be erected on shore.

Discussion with Margaret Moore:

- Margaret pointed out that shells can go about 6-7 mph; coaching boats usually need not go any faster. The coaches have agreed not to use the cove, where a wake would be the most damaging.
- The committee agreed that a new bylaw is not necessary since the crew is willing to act responsibly and follow existing bylaws. The no-wake proposal appears to be prompted by fears of erosion damage, but a lot of erosion is caused by wind-driven waves.
- An adult rowing program, to be run by the Arlington Recreation Dept, is being planned for the summer (the crew rows in spring and fall). Permits granted by the Recreation Dept. could include any necessary conditions for both programs.
- The committee agreed to recommend no action on the no-wake article since it would probably scuttle the rowing program, which gains support for the pond. It was noted that there is already a sign (although ungrammatical) at the boat ramp with the existing limits on horsepower and speed.
- Bob Noyes agreed to write a letter to the Selectmen stating the committee's position. The crew will also send a letter to the Selectmen stating how it plans to operate to avoid damage.

Other business:

- **Phragmites:** Brad proposed using the 2/21 holiday to cut the remaining phragmites on the island and also cut any greenbrier, a recently arrived invasive. Caution is needed because coyotes have been seen on the island and there is some poison ivy on top of the hill.
- **Sandbar:** Tufts University has it on its list of possibilities for student projects but has nothing planned right

now.

- **Fertilizer flyer:** Dick Terry is working on it; to be distributed with Neighborhood Newsletter.
- **EcoFest** March 26, 10m am – 2 pm: What to display? Share a table with Friends of Spy Pond Park?